

SCA Emergency Management Bulletin #3 Update

(October 2026)

Awareness and Preparedness During Hurricane Season

The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June to November, but most hurricane-like weather is seen between mid-August and late October. Calvert County is at risk for strong winds, heavy rain, inland flooding, and other severe weather. Residents can be “weather ready” by ensuring they know how to get a warning, have an emergency plan, and practice safety tips.

When a hurricane is predicted, we suggest that members take the following steps and precautions:

Before the Storm

- Check your Emergency Kit to ensure it is up to date and that no items need refreshing (Please see separate document Preparing an Emergency Kit).
- Sign up for emergency alerts from your local government.
<https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/2574/Sign-Up-for-Alerts>
- Monitor your local news and weather.
- Procure a backup battery or an alternate method to charge your mobile phone. Keep your mobile phone charged.
- If you own a generator, test it and make sure it is fueled and ready to use. Ensure that the area where the generator is going to be operated is outside and well ventilated.
- All power lines in Scientists Cliffs are now underground. Many members have taken the additional precaution to work with SMECO to have the power from their local pole to their home buried. If you are interested in having your above ground power buried, please contact SMECO. Note: Most recent power outages have occurred from damage to lines outside of Scientists Cliffs or to the lines between the Gates.
- Understand the types of alerts you may receive and know how you will respond.
 - A WATCH means Be Prepared
 - A WARNING means Take Action
 - You may receive these alerts for a Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Extreme Wind, Storm Surge, Flash Flood, Flood, or Tornado
- You may wish to learn First Aid and CPR. If so, contact your local Red Cross or another source
- Ensure that you have adequate food and prescription medicine on hand before the storm in case you are not able to venture out for several days. Ensure that you have cash on hand in case of Ensure your vehicle is fully fueled. This will ensure you have adequate fuel in the event of a prolonged power outage.
- Develop a plan to evacuate if necessary and a plan to shelter in place.

- Ensure that you have essentials prepacked and are prepared to leave.
- Know where you will go, how you will get there and where will you stay.
- Plan well in advance if you will need help or assistance in evacuating.
- Organize your supplies into a Go Kit and a Shelter-in-Place-Kit A Go Kit should contain at least 3 days of food and supplies, please clothes and chargers/backup power sources for all of your devices. A Shelter-In-Place Kit should include your Emergency Kit and additionally contain at least a 2-week supply of food, medicine, and other necessities.
- Ensure that you have your Go Kit and any other essentials are prepacked and you are prepared to leave. If required
- Ensure that a battery powered radio for use during a power outage is part of your Emergency Kit.
- Keep personal, financial, and medical records safe and easy to access.
- Ensure that you have flashlights or battery-operated lanterns with fresh batteries installed and with extra batteries on hand. Use candles cautiously and never leave them unattended. Use extreme caution if you use fuel powered lanterns or heaters inside. Never use charcoal inside, even in the fireplace.
- Secure or bring inside any outdoor items, such as lawn furniture, trash cans, bird feeders, or other items that can be picked up by high winds and cause damage or injury. Securely anchor objects that are too large or unsafe to bring inside, such as gas grills, propane tanks, or golf carts.
- Consider trimming or removing trees that are close enough to fall on your home, especially damaged trees or those prone to being uprooted.
- Clear out drains, gutters, and downspouts
- If you have a basement, consider installing a sump pump with a battery backup.
- Consider acquiring or installing a portable or whole house generator in case of power outage.
- Acquire protective materials as necessary, such as plastic sheeting, plywood, or sand bags.
- Consider if your heat pump, water heater, or electrical panel needs to be elevated or protected from storm damage or water
- If you plan to shelter in place, be prepared to live without power and the internet for some time. Water will be available in Scientists Cliffs because of the water tower. However, with no power, the pumps at the wells will not function and water should be conserved as much as possible for drinking and cooking. Turn off your water to your toilets so that they will not refill using community water. Fill bathtubs with water before the storm, so that toilets tanks can be refilled using this water. Turn off automatic lawn or garden watering systems. Do not plan to water your gardens, plants, or flowers until power is restored.

- Have a designated location in your home where you can shelter during high winds or destructive portions of the storm.
- Develop support networks of friends and neighbors in close proximity in advance of the storm. Phones, texting, and CliffNotes may very well not be available during the storm and for some time after the storm.

During the Storm

- If local authorities advise you to evacuate, leave immediately.
- Bring your Go Kit and any other essential. Bring only your Go Kit and essentials.
- Follow the evacuation routes and do not try to take short cuts, as they may be blocked.
- Check with local authorities regarding shelter locations. You can also download the Red Cross Emergency App to locate shelters.
- Monitor the storm's progress.
- If you shelter in place during the storm, go to your predetermined location for protection from wind and water.
- Stay away from exterior doors and windows
- If you are in a flow or flood prone area, consider moving to higher ground before the storm begins.
- Never walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.
- Monitor the storm's progress.

After the Storm

- Avoid damaged or fallen power lines, poles and wires.
- Do not touch floodwaters as they may contain sewage from septic run off or bacteria.
- Dispose of food that became wet.
- Dispose of food that should be refrigerated that became warm.
- Contact your doctor or healthcare provider about refrigerated medicine if it became warm.
- Clean and disinfect anything inside your home that became wet.
- Wear appropriate protective clothing during cleanup.
- When clearing heavy debris, always work with a partner.
- If you have not used a chain saw or power equipment before, do not try to learn how to at this point without proper instruction from an experienced user.
- Be mindful of overworking, take appropriate breaks. Heart attacks are a leading cause of death during storm clean up.